

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

Emily Ann Nelson,

Case No. 24-cv-2067 (PJS/TNL)

Plaintiff,

v.

**NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR
PRETRIAL SCHEDULING
CONFERENCE**

Maximus Education, LLC d/b/a
Aidvantage, Wells Fargo Bank, National
Association d/b/a Wells Fargo Education
Financial Services, Capital One Financial
Corporation, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.,
and Spring Oaks Capital LLC,

Defendants.

TO: Plaintiff above-named and Plaintiff's attorneys Carter B. Lyons and Thomas J. Lyons, Jr., Consumer Justice Center P.A., 367 Commerce Court, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127.

Defendants above-named and Defendant's attorneys Natalia S. Kruse, Husch Blackwell LLP, 80 South Eighth Street, Suite 2800, Minneapolis, MN 55402; Addison Jelani Morgan, Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP, 600 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 3000, Atlanta, GA 30308; Jeffrey D. Pilgrim, Pilgrim Christakis LLP, One South Dearborn Street, Suite 1420, Chicago, IL 60603; Adam Gregory Chandler and Daniel N. Moak, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, 80 South Eighth Street, Suite 2200, Minneapolis, MN 55402; Benjamin J. Kirk and John Karl Rossman, Rossman Attorney Group, PLLC, Post Office Box 24140; Edina, MN 55424.

If counsel for all parties are not listed above, it shall be the responsibility of Plaintiff's counsel (1) to immediately notify those parties and counsel of this conference, and (2) to immediately inform those parties and counsel of the requirements set forth in this notice and order.

I. DATE, TIME, PLACE AND PARTICIPANTS

Pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Local Rule 16 of the Rules of this District, a pretrial conference of trial counsel in the above matter shall be held **via telephone or video conference**, on **October 21, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.**, before United States Magistrate Judge Tony N. Leung to consider the matters set forth in Rule 16(c), the Rule 26(f) disclosures, and related matters.

Attached hereto is a template of the Pretrial Scheduling Order that will be used by the Court at the pretrial conference. Parties and respective counsel shall familiarize themselves with the template and be prepared to complete it at the pretrial conference.

II. MEETING, REPORTS AND DISCLOSURES REQUIRED

A. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f), trial counsel for each party shall meet no later than 21 days before the pretrial conference, to discuss settlement, and to prepare the report required by Rule 26(f) and Local Rule 16.2.

B. If the case does not settle, no later than 14 days after the parties conduct their 26(f) meeting, counsel shall jointly prepare and file electronically on ECF, in compliance with the Electronic Case Filing Procedures for the District of Minnesota, a complete written report of the Rule 26(f) meeting. The report shall include:

1. Date and Place of the Meeting; Identification of the Parties and Their Attorneys; Agenda of Matters for Pretrial Conference

- a. The date and place at which the meeting was held;
- b. Name, address and occupation or business of each party, together with the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the attorneys who represented each party at the meeting;

- c. Name of insurance carriers that may be liable for the defense or payment of any damage award; and
- d. An agenda of matters to be discussed at the Pretrial Conference.

2. Description of the case

- a. A concise statement of the jurisdictional basis of the case, giving statutory citation and a brief narrative description;
- b. In diversity cases in which a limited liability corporation or partnership entity is a named party, the concise statement shall contain a brief description of the availability of diversity jurisdiction, including a list of all members and the citizenship of each member of the limited liability corporation or a list of all partners and the citizenship of all partners of the partnership entity, consistent with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules;
- c. A brief narrative of the facts giving rise to the lawsuit, including a description of legal claims and defenses; and
- d. A summary itemization of the dollar amount of each element of the alleged damages.

3. Pleadings

- a. A statement of whether the Complaint and all responsive pleadings have been filed, and whether any party proposes to amend its pleadings;
- b. The date by which all motions that seek to amend the pleadings or add parties will be filed; and
- c. Whether a jury trial is available under the law, and whether a jury trial has been timely demanded.

4. Discovery Plan (If parties are unable to agree on a discovery plan, the report shall separately set forth each party's proposed plan.) Such a plan shall include such matters as production of electronically stored information (ESI), focusing the initial discovery on preliminary issues that might be case dispositive, instituting document control mechanisms, stipulating to facts to eliminate unnecessary discovery and any other matters counsel may agree

upon to control litigation costs and delay. Such a plan, at a minimum, shall include the following:

- a. The date by which the initial Rule 26(a)(1) disclosures of witnesses, documents, itemized damage computations and insurance will be completed (if not already completed);
- b. Whether the parties wish to engage in any method of alternative dispute resolution following Rule 26(a)(1) disclosures but before formal discovery is commenced;
- c. Whether discovery should be conducted in phases, or limited to or focused upon, particular issues;
- d. The date by which each party shall disclose the identity of expert witnesses and their reports under Rule 26(a)(2)(A) and (B);
- e. The number of interrogatories each party shall be permitted to serve;
- f. The number of depositions (excluding depositions of expert witnesses) each party shall be permitted to take;
- g. The number of expert depositions each party shall be permitted to take; and
- h. A mechanism and date by which the parties shall meet, confer, and stipulate to search terms and any other unique electronic discovery issues, as appropriate.

5. Close of Discovery and Non-Dispositive Motions

- a. The date by which all discovery shall be completed and all non-dispositive motions shall be filed and served.
- b. Whether the parties:
 - i. agree that a party should be required to request an informal conference with the Court before filing a discovery motion;
 - ii. agree that a party should be not required to request an informal conference with the Court before filing a discovery motion; or

iii. do not agree whether a party should be required to request an informal conference with the Court before filing a discovery motion.

6. Dispositive Motions and Trial

- a. The date by which all dispositive motions shall be served, filed and heard;
- b. The date by which the case shall be ready for trial;
- c. The number of expert witnesses each party expects to call at trial; and
- d. Estimated trial time (including jury selection and instructions, if applicable).

C. Unless otherwise agreed by counsel, the initial disclosures shall be exchanged no later than the time limits set forth by Rule 26(a)(1).

D. **No later than seven (7) days before the Rule 16 conference, each party shall also submit a Letter/Memorandum concerning settlement—including without limitation, whether the case is appropriate for early settlement or alternative dispute resolution—which shall remain confidential between the Court and that party. The confidential settlement letter shall be delivered to Magistrate Judge Leung's chambers via e-mail to leung_chambers@mnd.uscourts.gov.**

III. REMEDIES

Failure to comply with any provision of this Order or any other consistent order shall subject the non-complying party, non-complying counsel and/or the party such

counsel represents to any and all appropriate remedies, sanctions and the like, including without limitation: assessment of costs, fines and attorneys' fees and disbursements; waiver of rights to object; exclusion or limitation of witnesses, testimony, exhibits and other evidence; striking of pleadings; complete or partial dismissal with prejudice; entry of whole or partial default judgment; and/or any other relief that the Court may from time to time deem appropriate.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: August 28, 2024

s/Tony N. Leung
Tony N. Leung
U.S. Magistrate Judge

Nelson v. Maximus Education, LLC, et al.
24-cv-2067 PJS/TNL

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

EMILY ANN NELSON,

PLAINTIFF,

v.

MAXIMUS EDUCATION, LLC D/B/A
ADVANTAGE, WELLS FARGO BANK,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION D/B/A WELLS FARGO
EDUCATION FINANCIAL SERVICES, CAPITAL
ONE FINANCIAL CORPORATION, JPMORGAN
CHASE BANK, N.A., AND SPRING OAKS
CAPITAL LLC,

DEFENDANTS.

CIVIL No. 24-cv-2067 (PJS/TNL)

**PRETRIAL SCHEDULING
ORDER**

Pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of this Court, and in order to secure the just, speedy, and less expensive determination of this action, the following schedule shall govern these proceedings. This schedule may be modified only upon formal motion and a showing of good cause as required by D. Minn. LR 16.3.

1. Fact Discovery

- a. All pre-discovery disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1) shall be completed on or before _____, 2024.
- b. Fact discovery shall be commenced in time to be completed on or before _____.
- c. No more than _____ Interrogatories, counted in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 33(a), shall be served by any side/party.
- d. Each party agrees to abide by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules with respect to Document Requests. OR *No more than _____ Document Requests shall be served by any side/party.*

- e. Each party agrees to abide by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules with respect to Requests for Admission. OR *No more than _____ Requests for Admissions shall be served by any side/party.*
- f. No more than _____ Fed. R. Civ. P. 35 medical examination(s) shall be served by any side/party on or before _____.
- g. No more than _____ depositions, excluding expert witness depositions, shall be taken by any side/party.
- h. [On or before _____, the parties shall file a joint motion with a proposed Protective Order for the Court's review. / At this time, the Parties agree that a protective order is not necessary; however, if a protective order should be necessary, the parties shall file a joint motion with a proposed Protective Order for the Court's review.] The sealing of entire pleadings, memoranda of law, exhibits, and the like is strongly discouraged. No document shall be filed under seal unless such document or information therein is genuinely confidential and/or there are *compelling* reasons to do so. Any party seeking to file a document under seal shall specifically review each document and the information therein to limit sealing only to the extent necessary. If a party files a document containing confidential information with the Court, it shall do so in compliance with the Electronic Case Filing Procedures for the District of Minnesota and Local Rule 5.6. **Any joint motion made pursuant to Local Rule 5.6 before United States Magistrate Judge Tony N. Leung shall conform to Exhibit A attached hereto.** Counsel shall provide the Court with two courtesy copies of the unredacted documents with the redacted information highlighted in yellow.
- i. Any party claiming privilege or protection of trial-preparation materials shall serve on the party seeking discovery a privilege log that complies with the requirements in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(5).

2. ESI Discovery Plan

- a. The parties shall preserve all electronic documents that bear on any claims, defenses, or the subject matter of the lawsuit. [On or before _____, the parties shall file a joint motion with a proposed ESI Discovery Plan. / Production of electronic documents shall be in native format. If the use of native format requires proprietary software, the producing party shall inform the requesting party of that fact.]

3. Expert Discovery

- a. Each party/side may call no more than _____ expert witnesses.
- b. Each party/side shall take no more than one deposition per expert.

- c. The parties acknowledge that Plaintiff's treating doctors and medical care providers are not retained experts and that each party will have access to all relevant medical records. Plaintiff anticipates that such treating doctors will be allowed to testify regarding their care and treatment. Defendant agrees that such treating doctors are not subject to the expert disclosure requirement set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2), and reserves the right to challenge the scope of their testimony to be offered at trial.
- d. Disclosure of the identity of expert witnesses under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(A) and the full disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B), accompanied by the written report prepared and signed by the expert witness, shall be made as follows:
 - i. Plaintiff
 1. Identification by Plaintiff on or before _____.
 2. Report by Plaintiff on or before _____.
 3. Rebuttal witness and reports shall be disclosed on or before _____.
 - ii. Defendant
 1. Identification by Defendant on or before _____.
 2. Report by Defendant on or before _____.
 3. Rebuttal witness and reports shall be disclosed on or before _____.

OR

- iii. *Identification by the Party bearing the burden of proof on or before _____.*
- iv. *Report by the Party bearing the burden of proof on or before _____.*
- v. *Identification by the Rebuttal Party on or before _____.*
- vi. *Report by the Rebuttal Party on or before _____.*
- vii. *If Defendant/an opposing party identifies an expert in a new area of expertise, Plaintiff shall have until _____ to submit a rebuttal report.*
- viii. *If Plaintiff does not identify an expert, but Defendant does, Plaintiff shall have to and including _____ to identify a rebuttal expert witness and submit a rebuttal report.*

e. Expert discovery, including depositions, shall be completed on or before _____.

4. Non-Dispositive Motions

- a. Non-dispositive motions may be scheduled for hearing by calling the Court's Courtroom Deputy at 612-664-5470.

- b. All motions which seek to amend the pleadings, including without limitation, a motion for leave to amend to add parties must be served on or before ____.
- c. Motions for leave to amend to add punitive damage claims must be served and filed on or before ____.
- d. Except as to non-dispositive motion deadlines specifically set forth elsewhere in this Order, all non-dispositive motions and supporting documents, including those which relate to discovery, shall be served and filed on or before ____.
- e. All non-dispositive motions and supporting documents which relate to expert discovery shall be filed and served on or before ____.
- f. Prior to scheduling any non-dispositive motion, parties are strongly encouraged to consider whether the motion, including motions relating to discovery and scheduling, can be informally resolved through telephone conference with the Magistrate Judge. All non-dispositive motions shall be scheduled, filed and served in compliance with the Electronic Case Filing Procedures for the District of Minnesota and in compliance with D. Minn. LR 7.1 and 37.1.
- g. At the Rule 16 Scheduling Conference, the Court advised the parties that it is willing to resolve non-dispositive disputes between the parties on an informal basis via a telephone conference. However, before the Court will agree to proceed with this informal resolution mechanism, the "meet and confer" required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(a)(1) and D. Minn. LR 37.1 must have taken place, and all parties to the dispute must agree to use this informal resolution process as the very nature of the process is such that the parties are giving up rights they would otherwise have (e.g., the dispute is heard over the phone; there is no recording or transcript of the phone conversation; no briefs, declarations or sworn affidavits are filed). If the parties do agree to use this informal resolution process, one of the parties shall contact Magistrate Judge Leung's chambers to schedule the conference. The parties shall submit short letters prior to the conference to set forth their respective positions. The requesting party shall submit its letter 7 days prior to the conference; the responding party shall submit its letter 4 days prior to the conference. The Court will read the written submissions of the parties before the phone conference, hear arguments of counsel at the conference, and if no one changes their decision during the phone conference regarding their willingness to participate in this informal resolution process, the Court will issue its decision at the conclusion of the phone conference or shortly after the conference. Depending on the nature of the dispute, the Court may or may not issue a written order. If there is no agreement to resolve a dispute through this informal resolution process, then the dispute must be presented to the Court via formal motion and hearing.

5. Dispositive Motions

- a. All dispositive motions (notice of motion, motion, memorandum of law, affidavits and proposed order) must be served, filed and **HEARD** on or before _____. [2 MONTHS AFTER DISCOVERY CUTOFF]
- b. Counsel for the moving party shall call Chief Judge Schiltz's Courtroom Deputy at 612-664-5483 to schedule the hearing. Parties are reminded that the scheduling of a dispositive motion requires considerable advance notice (typically three to four months). Parties should attempt to schedule all dispositive motions for the same hearing and should strive to avoid duplication in their briefing.

All dispositive motions shall be scheduled, filed and served in compliance with the Electronic Case Filing Procedures for the District of Minnesota and in compliance with Local Rule 7.1. When a motion, response or reply brief is filed on ECF, two paper courtesy copies (three-hole punched and unstapled and, if warranted, exhibits appropriately tabbed) of the pleading and all supporting documents shall be mailed or delivered to the Courtroom Deputy at the same time as the documents are posted on ECF.

When scheduling a summary judgment hearing, the parties must notify the Court whether there will be cross-motions for summary judgment so that the Court may enter an appropriate briefing order. The parties should confer about the possibility of cross-motions before contacting chambers to schedule a summary judgment hearing.

6. Status & Settlement Conferences

- a. The parties shall appear for a settlement conference with the Court on _____ at 10:00 a.m. [The parties do not agree that a settlement conference is appropriate in this case at this time.]
- b. On or shortly before _____, _____, and _____, counsel for each party shall submit CONFIDENTIAL letters to the Court setting forth with reasonable specificity the status of the case; the relative strengths and weaknesses of each party's position; an update of efforts toward settlement; the last settlement positions of the parties; whether a settlement conference with a private mediator or the court would be productive; and a litigation budget. Each letter shall not exceed three pages. On or shortly before the date each such letter is due, counsel for the parties shall meet and confer to discuss the status of the case and discuss settlement.

AND

Counsel for the parties shall CM/ECF file _____ joint letter(s) to the Court setting forth the status of the case with reasonable specificity on or shortly before _____ and _____.

- c. A final settlement conference shall be scheduled by the Court on a later date when needed.

7. Trial

- a. This case shall be ready for a Jury/Court trial on _____. [4 MONTHS]
- b. Anticipated length of trial is ____ days.

8. Prior Orders and Remedies

- a. All prior consistent orders remain in full force and effect.
- b. Failure to comply with any provision of this Order or any other prior consistent Order shall subject the non-complying party, non-complying counsel and/or the party such counsel represents to any and all appropriate remedies, sanctions and the like, including without limitation: assessment of costs, fines and attorneys' fees and disbursements; waiver of rights to object; exclusion or limitation of witnesses, testimony, exhibits and other evidence; striking of pleadings; complete or partial dismissal with prejudice; entry of whole or partial default judgment; and/or any other relief that this Court may from time to time deem appropriate.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: October ___, 2024

Magistrate Judge Tony N. Leung
United States District Court
District of Minnesota

Nelson v. Maximus Education, LLC, et al.
24-cv-2067 PJS/TNL

EXHIBIT A
SAMPLE LOCAL RULE 5.6 GRID FOR CASES WITH U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE TONY N. LEUNG

| Docket No. | Description of Document | Relevant Page Numbers | Mark "X" in Applicable Column | | | Nonparty that Designated Doc. Confidential (If Any) | Specific Reason Why Document Should Remain Sealed or Be Unsealed (it is insufficient to refer to a protective order) |
|------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|---|--|
| | | | Parties Agree Doc. Should Remain Sealed | Parties Agree Doc. Should Be Unsealed | Parties Disagree | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

For documents with confidential information spanning more than one category, a separate entry should be used for each category of information. For example, a memorandum contains both confidential financial records and medical records:

| Docket No. | Description of Document | Relevant Page Numbers | Mark "X" in Applicable Column | | | Nonparty that Designated Doc. Confidential (If Any) | Specific Reason Why Document Should Remain Sealed or Be Unsealed (it is insufficient to refer to a protective order) |
|------------|---|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|---|--|
| | | | Parties Agree Doc. Should Remain Sealed | Parties Agree Doc. Should Be Unsealed | Parties Disagree | | |
| 26 | <i>Unredacted memorandum of in support of XYZ, Inc.'s motion for summary judgment</i> | 5, 8, 12-15, 23-25 | X | | | | <i>Confidential financial information.</i> |
| 26 | <i>Unredacted memorandum of in support of XYZ, Inc.'s motion for summary judgment</i> | 16-20, 26-27 | X | | | | <i>Confidential medical records.</i> |